(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्षों के दौरान देश में गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवन बिताने वाले व्यक्तियों की संख्या में 2 प्रतिशत वार्षिक की वृद्धि हुई और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि 40.1 प्रतिशत वर्तमान आबादी गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवन बिता रही है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गमंग): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) सरकारी अनुमानों के अनुसार, गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले व्यक्तियों की संख्या में 1983-84 में 271.0 मिलियन से घटकर 1987-88 में 237.7 मिलियन होने पर 3.1 प्रतिशत वार्षिक की कमी आई थी। योजना आयोग द्वारा गठित गरीबों के अनुपात तथा संख्या के अनुमान संबंधी विशेषज्ञ दल के अनुमानों के अनुसार संख्या 1983 में 327.0 मिलियन से घटकर 1987-88 में 312.7 मिलियन होने पर 1.1 प्रतिशत वार्षिक की कमी आई थी।

सरकारी अनुमानों के अनुसार 1987-88 में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रह रही जनसंख्या का प्रतिशत 29.9 था। विशेषज्ञ दल ने इसका अनुमान 39.3 प्रतिशत लगाया है।

बाद के वर्षों के तुलनात्मक आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं है।

Retail Prices of Essential Commodities

776. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the retail prices of essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils, pulses, tea etc. during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for increase in prices; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to control prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) Month-end retail prices of selected essential commodities for the last 3 years ending July, 1995 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b)and (c) Rise in the price levels of commodities is the result of an interplay of various factors operating on the demand and supply sides of the economy. The gap between the demand and supply of commodities like pulses and edible oils, decline in production of a particular commodity during the year, revision in the Minimum Support Prices of agricultural products warranted by rise in input costs, increased demand due to continuous rise in population over the years are some of the reasons for rise in the prices. Among the measures taken by the Government to contain the prices include the incentives given to farmers and manul facturers to enhance their output, import of edible oils, pulses, sugar, cotton whenever necessary, strict action against hoarders and black marketeers under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The essential commodities are also being supplied at reasonable prices through cooperatives stores and State Civil Supplies Corporations in addition to those supplied through the Public Distribution System and Revamped Public Distribution System. State Governments have been requested to keep a close watch on the prices of essential commodities in their States/UTs.

Statement

Monthend Retail Prices of Selected Essential Commodities for the Last Three Years Ending July, 1995

(Rs. per kg)

Item/Centre	July, 1992	July, 1993	July, 1994	July, 1995
Wheat				
Delhi	4.50	4.50	5.00	5.00
Bombay	7.60	7.50	8.00	7.50
Madras	7.00	6.40	7.00	7.50
Rice				
Delhi	7.00	7.00	8.50	8.50
Bombay	7.60	7.50	8.50	8.50
Calcutta	5.70	6.20	6.80	7.00
Madras	6.20	6.60	7.50	8.25
Sugar				
Delhi	10.50	11.50	14.00	14.00
Bombay	9.80	11.80	14.00	13.40
Calcutta	10.00	11.50	14.00	13.80
Madras	9.00	10.50	13.10	11.80
Groundnut oil				
Delhi	42.00	36.00	46.00	47.00
Bombay	40.00	36.00	42.00	44.00
Madras	35.50	32.50	40.00	43.00
Mustard oil				
	32.50	30.00	32.00	36.00
Delhi	38.00	36.00	40.00	44.00
Bombay	30.00	29.00	33.00	37.00
Calcutta				
Vanaspati				
Delhi	39.00	35.00	39.00	39.50
Bombay	44.00	38.00	42.00	45.50
Calcutta	39.00	39.00	40.00	42.00
Madras	42.00	37.00	40.00	43.00
Gram				
Delhi	10.00	13.00	18.00	13.50
Bombay	12.00	15.00	19.00	14.00
Calcutta	9.50	12.00	15.00	16.00
Madras	10.00	13.50	17.50	12.50
Arhar				
Delhi	16.00	14.00	18.00	28.50
Bombay	18.00	16.00	18.00	29.00
Calcutta	15.00	14.00	17.00	28.00
Madras	18.00	16.50	18.00	30.00

Item/Centre	July, 1992	July, 1993	July, 1994	July, 1995
Tea				
Delhi	55.00	68.00	72.00	75.00
Bombay	55.00	74.00	76.00	76.00
Calcutta	40.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
Madras	85.00	98.00	105.00	105.00

(Source:—States/UT's, Civil Supplies Departments)

Commodities under Essential Commodities Act

777. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities which have been declared till 30th June, 1995 as essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) what has been the annual price variation in these commodities during the last three years;

(c) what action has been taken to control the prices of essential commodities; and

(d) the number of cases booked under the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) List of 44 items of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is in the Statment-I (*See* below).

(b) This Ministry does not maintain price variation of all the essential commodities declared under the E.C. Act, 1995. However, percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during the year ending June 93, June 94 and June 95 is in the Statment-II (*See* below).

(c) The Central Government has been monitoring the prices and availability of essential commodities. Efforts are being made to make available the essential commodities at reasonable rates to consumers. Imports are resorted to as and when required. The Central Government also advises the States/UT Governments to take stringent action against hoarders, and blackmarketeers indulging in unfair trade practices under Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Prevention of Blackmarketing, and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 and also for violating other Control Orders.

(d) The number of cases booked under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the last three years, is shown in the Statement-III.

Statement

List of Commodities declared Essential under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955

Declared under Clause (a) of Section 2 of the Act:

1. Cattle fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates.
2. Coal, including coke and other derivatives.
3. Component parts and accessories of automobiles.
4. Cotton and woolen textiles.
5. Drugs.